

3 Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500310008-8

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244-0682

STAT

PROGRAM:	DATE:
THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON	31 July 1966
STATION OR NETWORK:	TIME:
ABC Radio	6:10 P.M.

" TOOK HIS PUNISHMENT LIKE A MAN "

BILL DOWNS: As Washington's week ended, it was clear that at least one high Federal official must be wishing he had broken his arm. He was Richard Helms, who only last month was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, with high praise for his public service record, to be the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As the nation's top cloak and dagger man, Helms was the epitome of discretion and one of the chief advocates of keeping the CIA out of the newspaper headlines. During his long experience working his way up the administrative ladder of the hush-hush intelligence agency, Helms also had learned that the best-kept secrets are those which are known to the fewest people.

Therefore it was natural that he would oppose expanding the present Senate watchdog committee, which is supposed to keep an eye on the so-called spy palace at Langley, Virginia, and the CIA's secret budget which reportedly now has risen to \$4 billion a year.

Arkansas Senator William Fulbright, Minnesota's Eugene McCarthy and others proposed that the Senate watchdog committee be expanded to include members of the Foreign Relations Committee. Washington's intelligence community, including the CIA, made no secret of its opposition.

After a rare behind-closed-doors Senate session a couple of weeks ago, these Senators agreed with the CIA position and turned down McCarthy and Fulbright's bid to increase the size of the intelligence overseers committee. Most of official Washington concluded that that was that and the issue settled. In fact, the St. Louis Globe Democrat was delighted that the Senate had rebuffed the Doves trying to stick their nose into CIA affairs, and said so in an editorial roundly rapping Senator Fulbright's ideological knuckles.

Especially there was also unbounded joy at the CIA's sprawling headquarters up the Potomac, and a few days later the editors of the St. Louis newspaper must have been delighted to receive a letter signed by